

REMARKS

The abstract and specification have been amended as needed so as to place this application in condition for disposal at the time of the next Official Action.

As to the drawings, the inconsistencies, as to items 2 and 3, arise, not in the drawings, but in the specification. Accordingly, the specification has been amended so as to make reference to these two items uniform throughout.

The claims previously in the case have been replaced by a set of new claims which are believed to be proper as to form and clearly patentable over the cited references.

In drafting the new claims, careful attention was paid to the Examiner's formal criticisms of the original claims, all of which criticisms are believed to be met by the new claims.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of certain of the claims as anticipated by McCLURE et al. U.S. Patent 6,451,125.

Although McCLURE discloses a process and apparatus for cleaning pieces with a cleaning fluid and the biological degradation of the organic material contained in the cleaning fluid by means of microorganisms, we do not see where McCLURE et al. discloses the sterilization of the cleaning fluid thereby to reduce the population of microorganisms therein.

Thus, the opening pages of our specification point out the prior art of which McCLURE is typical, but also point out, on

page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 8, the difficulty that arises with respect to the health or welfare of an operator thus exposed to microorganisms.

The present invention provides a solution to this problem, which solution is not in any way foreshadowed by McCLURE et al. and so is not in any way made obvious by McCLURE et al., much less is it anticipated by McCLURE et al.

As the claims now in the case bring out this novel and unobvious subject matter with ample particularity and distinctness, it is believed that they are all patentable, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s) :

- a terminal disclaimer
- a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- a Replacement Sheet for Figure . of the drawings
- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- a verified English translation of foreign priority document